CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

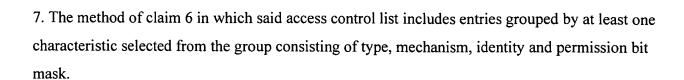
1. A method for providing security services in a clustered data processing environment, said method comprising the steps of:

providing an access program layer on at least two data processing nodes of said clustered environment, said layer presenting a consistent security interface to applications which run on said nodes;

providing at least one security program module which implements a security service within said cluster; and

providing at least one adapter module for each security program module, wherein said at least one adapter module maps parameters of said security service to said security interface.

- 2. The method of claim 1 in which there are a plurality of more than two of said data processing nodes.
- 3. The method of claim 1 in which there are a plurality of security program modules.
- 4. The method of claim 1 in which there are a plurality of said adapter modules.
- 5. The method of claim 1 in which said access program layer includes authentication and authorization services through said security interface.
- 6. The method of claim 1 in which said access program layer includes access control services through said security interface.



8. The method of claim 1 in which said access program layer loads security program modules identified through said security interface.